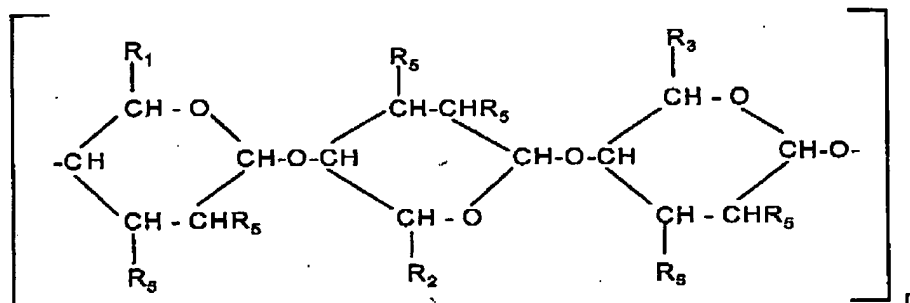


Attorney's Docket: 2003DB413  
 Serial No.: 10/791,577  
 Art Unit: 1713  
 Response to Office Action of July 27, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A water soluble polymeric composition based on PVA, ~~substantively composed of~~ consisting essentially of:

- a) from 50 to 99.9% by weight based on total composition of polyvinyl alcohol with an average MW of from 5 000 to 25 000 and with a degree of hydrolysis of from 79 to 99.9 mol%, and
- b) from 0.1 to 50% by weight based on total composition of one or more polysaccharides of the formula



where

$\text{R}_1, \text{R}_2, \text{R}_3$  are H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{COOMe}$ ,  $[(\text{COOMe})_n]$ ,  $\text{COOR}_4$ ,  $\text{CONHR}_6$ , or  $\text{CH}_2\text{OSO}_3\text{Me}$ ,  
 and Me is Na, K,  $\text{NH}_4$ , Mg, or Ca,

$n$  is a number from 20 to 20 000, ,

$\text{R}_4$  is  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_4$ -alkyl,

$\text{R}_5$  is OH,  $\text{NHCOCH}_3$ , H or  $\text{OCOCH}_3$  and

$\text{R}_6$  is H,  $\text{COCH}_3$ , or  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_4$ -alkyl.

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2. (Currently Amended) The water soluble polymeric composition as claimed in claim 1, further comprising from 0 to 5% by weight of antifoam based on total composition.
3. (Currently Amended) The water soluble polymeric composition as claimed in claim 1, further comprising from 0 to 10% by weight of a surface-active compound based on total composition.
4. (Currently Amended) The water soluble polymeric composition as claimed in claim 1, further comprising from 0 to 10% by weight of hydrophobicizing oils based on total composition.
5. (Currently Amended) The water soluble polymeric composition as claimed in claim 1; comprising from 0 to 3% by weight of modifiers or antiflow additives based on total composition.
6. (Currently Amended) The water soluble polymeric composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising from 0 to 30% by weight of plasticizer based on total composition.
7. (Canceled) .

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8. (Currently Amended) The water soluble polymeric composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol contains carboxy groups or polyglycol units in the molecule.

9. (Currently Amended) The water soluble polymeric composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more polysaccharides ~~are present~~ comprise from 0.1 to 15% by weight based on total composition.

10. (Currently Amended) The water soluble polymeric composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more polysaccharides ~~are present~~ comprise from 0.1 to 10% by weight based on total composition.

11. (Currently Amended) The water soluble polymeric composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein n is a number from 100 to 10,000.

12. (Currently Amended) The water soluble polymeric composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein n is a number from 100 to 9,000.

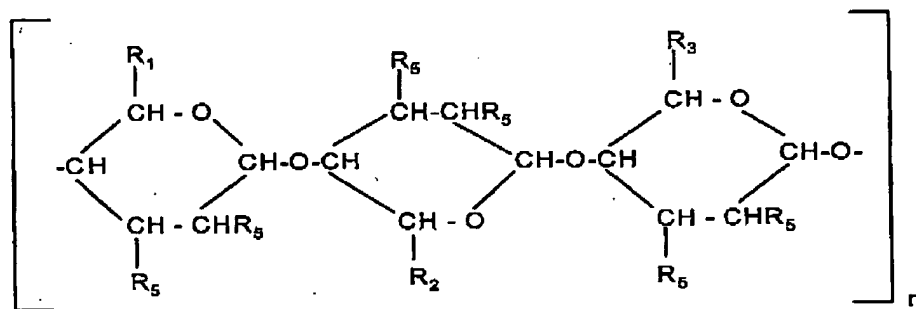
13. (Currently Amended) The water soluble polymeric composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sub>4</sub> is methyl.

14. (Currently Amended) The polymeric water soluble composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sub>6</sub> is methyl.

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15.(Currently Amended) A water soluble polymeric composition ~~based on PVA~~ comprising:

- a) from 50 to 99.9% by weight based on total composition of polyvinyl alcohol with an average MW of from 5 000 to 25 000 and with a degree of hydrolysis of from 79 to 99.9 mol%, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol contains carboxy groups or polyglycol units and
- b) from 0.1 to ~~[[50%]]~~ 10% by weight based on total composition of one or more polysaccharides of the formula



where

$\text{R}_1, \text{R}_2, \text{R}_3$  are H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{COOMe}$ ,  $[[\text{COOMe}]]$   $\text{COOR}_4$ ,  $\text{CONHR}_6$ , or  $\text{CH}_2\text{OSO}_3\text{Me}$ ,

and Me is Na, K,  $\text{NH}_4$ , Mg, or Ca,

$n$  is a number from 20 to 20 000,

$\text{R}_4$  is  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ -alkyl,

$\text{R}_5$  is OH,  $\text{NHCOCH}_3$ , H or  $\text{OCOCH}_3$  and

$\text{R}_6$  is H,  $\text{COCH}_3$ , or  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ -alkyl.

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16.(Canceled)

17.(New) A water soluble capsule or film comprising the water soluble polymeric composition of claim 15.

18.(New) A water soluble capsule or film comprising the water soluble polymeric composition of claim 1